

Claims

1. A cosmetically acceptable skincare composition in the form of a hydroalcoholic gel dispersion, the composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and a gelling agent in the form of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof, provided that if the composition contains xanthan gum, then it does not contain iron trichloride.
- 10 2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid, or a salt thereof, is a copolymer of that monomer with another vinylic monomer.
- 15 3. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the gelling agent is a copolymer of a salt of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid with another vinylic monomer.
4. A composition as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the salt is an ammonium salt.
- 20 5. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of: ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate / vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer; ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate / Beheneth-25 methacrylate copolymer; and ammonium acryloyldimethyltaurate / vinyl formamide copolymer.
- 25 6. A composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the gelling agent is ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate / vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer.
- 30 7. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises less than 10% w/w of the gelling agent.

8. A composition as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the composition comprises less than 5% w/w of the gelling agent.
- 5 9. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises more than 0.1% w/w of the gelling agent.
- 10 10. A composition as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the composition comprises more than 0.5% w/w of the gelling agent.
11. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises an amount of gelling agent in the range 0.1 to 5% w/w.
- 15 12. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises a thickening agent.
13. A composition as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the composition comprises a thickening agent selected from cellulose or derivatives thereof.
- 20 14. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the amount of water in the composition is in excess of 40% w/w.
15. A composition as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the amount of water in
- 25 the composition is in excess of 50% w/w.
16. A composition as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the amount of water in the composition is in excess of 75% w/w.
- 30 17. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the hydroalcoholic gel comprises a C₁₋₆ alcohol as cosolvent.

18. A composition as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the cosolvent is a C₂₋₄ alkanol.
19. A composition as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the cosolvent is 5 ethanol.
20. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to 19, which comprises in excess of 5% w/w of the cosolvent.
- 10 21. A composition as claimed in Claim 20, which comprises in excess of 10% w/w of the cosolvent.
22. A composition as claimed in Claim 21, which comprises in excess of 15 20% w/w of the cosolvent.
23. A composition as claimed in Claim 22, which comprises in excess of 30% w/w of the cosolvent.
24. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to 23, wherein the 20 amount of cosolvent present in the composition does not exceed 50% w/w.
25. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the active ingredient is salicylic acid.
- 25 26. A composition as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid in the composition is at least 0.1% by weight.
27. A composition as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid in the composition is at least 0.5% by weight.
- 30 28. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 25 to 27, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid is less than 5% by weight.

29. A composition as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid is less than 3% by weight.
- 5 30. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which comprises one or more further topically active ingredients useful in skincare.
31. A composition as claimed in Claim 30, wherein said one or more topically active ingredients are selected from the group consisting of:
- 10 antimicrobial or antibacterial compounds selected from the following: triclosan, neomycin, clindamycin, polymyxin, bacitracin, benzoyl peroxide, hydrogen peroxide, tetracyclines such as doxycycline or minocycline, sulfa drugs such as sulfacetamide, penicillins, cephalosporins such as cephalexin, and quinolones such as lomefloxacin, ofloxacin or trovafloxacin;
- 15 antiviral compounds, selected from acyclovir, tamvir, and penciclovir; antifungal compounds, selected from the following: farnesol, clotrimazole, ketoconazole, econazole, fluconazole, calcium or zinc undecylenate, undecylenic acid, butenafine hydrochloride, ciclopirox olamine, miconazole nitrate, nystatin, sulconazole, and terbinafine hydrochloride;
- 20 anti-inflammatory compounds, selected from the following: steroidal agents selected from hydrocortisone, fluocinolone acetonide, halcinonide, halobetasol propionate, clobetasol propionate, betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone valerate, and triamcinolone acetonide, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents selected from aspirin, ibuprofen, ketoprofen,
- 25 naproxen, aloe vera gel, aloe vera, licorice extract, pilewort, Canadian willow root, zinc, and allantoin; and metronidazole.

32. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 25 to 31, wherein the composition also comprises an antibacterial agent.
- 30 33. A composition as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the antibacterial agent is a peroxide antibacterial agent.

34. A composition as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the peroxide antibacterial agent is hydrogen peroxide or the composition comprises a compound that, in use, is capable of generating hydrogen peroxide.

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35. A composition as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is at least 1% by weight.

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36. A composition as claimed in Claim 34 or Claim 35, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is less than 5% by weight.

37. A composition as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is less than 2% by weight.

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38. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition is in the form of a transparent gel or a cream gel.

39. A composition as claimed in Claim 38 wherein the cream gel is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.

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40. A method for the treatment of a person's skin, which method comprises the application to the skin of a cosmetically acceptable skincare composition in the form of a hydroalcoholic gel dispersion, the composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and a gelling agent in the form of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof, provided that if the composition contains xanthan gum, then it does not contain iron trichloride.

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41. A method as claimed in Claim 40, which method is a therapeutic method.

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42. A method as claimed in Claim 41 for the prophylactic or remedial treatment of acne.

43. A method as claimed in Claim 40, which method is a cosmetic method.

5 44. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 40 to 43, wherein the composition is a composition as claimed in any one of Claims 2 to 39.

45. The use of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof as a gelling agent in a cosmetically acceptable skincare composition

10 comprising a hydroalcoholic gel comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof, provided that if the composition contains xanthan gum, then it does not contain iron trichloride.

46. An article comprising a fibrous substrate impregnated with a

15 cosmetically acceptable skincare composition in the form of a hydroalcoholic gel dispersion, the composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and a gelling agent in the form of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof.

20 47. An article as claimed in claim 46, wherein the fibrous substrate is impregnated with the skincare composition in an amount in the range from 10 to 30% by weight, preferably from 15 to 25% by weight and most preferably from 18 to 22% by weight of the fibrous substrate.

25 48. An article as claimed in either one of claims 46 or 47 wherein the substrate comprises cellulose or cotton fibres or a mixture thereof.